

We claim:

1. A method for receiving at a mobile terminal a service signal formatted as a series of transmission bursts, the service signal provided by each of a plurality of wireless transmitters, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a first service signal broadcast by a first wireless transmitter at a first frequency;

if said first service signal meets a first predefined criterion, deriving signal data from a second service signal broadcast by a second wireless transmitter; and

if said signal data from said second wireless transmitter meets a second predefined criterion, switching reception from said first wireless transmitter to said second wireless transmitter after a first service signal transmission burst has been received.

2. A method as in claim 1 wherein said first service signal broadcast by said first wireless transmitter is synchronized with said second service signal broadcast by said second wireless transmitter.

3. A method as in claim 1 further comprising the step of stripping encapsulation from said first service signal after receipt by the mobile terminal.

4. A method as in claim 3 wherein said encapsulation conforms to standard EN 301192.

5. A method as in claim 3 further comprising the step of sending said first service signal to an application processor for conversion to a data packet.

6. A method as in claim 1 wherein said first criterion is met if a receiver signal strength value for said first service signal measured by the mobile terminal is less than a predetermined value.

7. A method as in claim 1 wherein said first criterion is met if a bit error rate for said first service signal measured by the mobile terminal is greater than a predetermined value.

8. A method as in claim 1 wherein said second criterion is met if a bit error rate for said second service signal measured by the mobile terminal is smaller than a predetermined value.

9. A mobile terminal suitable for receiving information from a plurality of wireless transmitters, said mobile terminal comprising:

a digital broadcast receiver for receiving at least a first portion of the information as a first transmission burst, said first transmission burst broadcast by a first wireless transmitter;

a receiver elastic buffer for storing said first transmission burst; and

means for switching reception from the first wireless transmitter to a second wireless transmitter after reception of said first transmission burst has been completed.

10. The mobile terminal as in claim 9 further comprising means for deriving a bit error rate for said first transmission burst.

11. The mobile terminal as in claim 9 further comprising means for deriving a received signal strength indicator value for said first transmission burst.

12. The mobile terminal as in claim 9 wherein said means for switching is operative in response to said second wireless transmitter providing to said mobile terminal a signal meeting a predefined criterion.

13. The mobile terminal as in claim 9 further comprising an application processor for converting said first transmission burst into an information data stream.

14. The mobile terminal as in claim 9 further comprising a stream filter for stripping transmission encapsulation from said transmission burst stored in said receiver elastic buffer.

15. The mobile terminal as in claim 9 wherein said stream filter comprises an Internet protocol (IP) filter.

16. A digital broadcasting system comprising:

a first transmitter for broadcasting at least an interval of information as a transmission burst in synchronization with at least one other transmitter; and

a receiver system for receiving said transmission burst, said receiver including a receiver elastic buffer for buffering said transmission burst, said receiver further including means for executing a hand-over from said first transmitter to said at least one other transmitter upon receipt of said transmission burst if at least one predefined criterion has been met.

17. The digital broadcasting system as in claim 16 wherein said first transmitter comprises a multi-protocol encapsulator for encapsulating said transmission burst.

18. The digital broadcasting system as in claim 16 wherein said at least one predefined criterion is met if a receiver signal strength value for said transmission burst as measured by said receiver system is less than a predetermined value.

19. The digital broadcasting system as in claim 16 wherein said at least one predefined criterion is met if a bit error rate for said transmission burst as measured by the mobile terminal is greater than a predetermined value.

20. The digital broadcasting system as in claim 16 wherein said at least one predefined criterion is met if a bit error rate for a signal received from said at least one other transmitter as measured by the mobile terminal is smaller than a predetermined value.

21. A method for receiving a series of service signals provided by each of a plurality of wireless transmitters, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving service signals broadcast by a plurality of wireless transmitters, each said wireless transmitter broadcasting on a different frequency;

selecting a first wireless transmitter for providing information;

deriving a first bit error rate for information received from said first wireless transmitter;

if said first bit error rate for said first wireless transmitter is greater than a predefined quasi-error-free value, deriving a second bit-error-rate for a second wireless transmitter; and

if said second bit-error rate is less than said quasi-error-free value, selecting said second wireless transmitter for providing reception.

22. The method as in claim 21 wherein said step of selecting said second wireless transmitter for providing reception is performed after completing receipt of a service signal transmission burst from said first wireless transmitter.

23. The method as in claim 21 wherein said second wireless transmitter is selected from a plurality of transmitters as a function of received signal strength indicator value.